

# Spastics News

On the  
racetrack p.9  
Painting  
Competition  
p.11

European  
Commission  
backs Society

## Big grant won for India

The Commission of the Economic Communities has made what is believed to be its largest development grant for a project involving physically disabled people in a Third World Country. £212,000 will be channelled via The Spastics Society to the Spastics Society of India over three years. It will help build an institute for research and assessment and to train and employ 200 physically disabled people in Sion, Bombay.

"The Society is getting the maximum grant for one project, and at its first attempt", said a jubilant Barry Hassell, organiser of special projects. He attributed the success to a combination of factors: a large and evidently efficient voluntary



Students at the Colaba work-shop, Bombay.

organisation in a member state; a well established local society, and the project itself.

The institute will be jointly financed. The Commission will provide 50 per cent (£212,000) of the estimated cost. The Society will raise 21 per cent (£91,000) mainly through the large Indian population in Britain which is sympathetic to British and European projects for India. And the Indian Spastics Society will raise 29 per cent (£127,000) helped by generous tax incentives in India which allow a donor to reclaim 133 per cent of his tax.

The whole project represents a new departure for The Spastics Society. For the first time it is becoming involved with bricks and mortar overseas.

"India has 60-70 million disabled people, more than the total population of this country", said Tim Yeo. "It is right

that we should get involved. Our problems look insignificant compared to those of India".

Before the Indian Spastics Society was founded in 1972, cerebral palsy went un-noticed in India. Now there are five centres for special education and training courses for professionals. But for adolescent school leavers who need sheltered employment there is only one small work training centre at Colaba, Bombay.

The need for a larger building was recognised by the State of Maharashtra in 1979 when it leased land to the Indian Spastics Society at a nominal rent.

Now with the support of The Spastics Society and Barry Hassell's knowledge of CEC funding, plans can go ahead. It is hoped that the new institute will become a model for other training centres in India.

(See Director's Column page 2)

## Teignmouth finds a friend

More supervision is essential, says Bill Hargreaves after visit

On 20 June Bill Hargreaves returned from his five day marathon visit to Teignmouth, exhausted but cheerful. "I met the Mayor, the proprietor of the Royal Hotel, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, councillors, traders, townspeople — a complete cross-section," he said. "They told me how good it was to talk to someone who was impartial, particularly someone handicapped and doing this as a voluntary effort."

Teignmouth received a bad press after the abortive public meeting on 4 May revealed how local traders resented the influx of over 100 mentally handicapped visitors a week. When Tim Yeo suggested Bill Hargreaves should mediate, and an invitation came from the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Bill accepted. He used to run the Society's recreational services.

Now, having seen and heard for himself, he says: "I feel sympathy for all sides: the Royal Hotel, the townsfolk, and the mentally handicapped who in an entirely foreign situation need loving attention from staff."

He sums the problem up as

"not enough supervision".

"Paul Bourge failed to see that a large number of 'isolated incidents' could amount to a catastrophic situation. There were cases of urination, exposure and people holding up the queue in a shop."

"Once half a dozen wheelchairs were tied together and left in charge of one nurse while the other nurses went shopping. When one of the patients became distressed it was more than the nurse could handle."

"On many occasions, there was one attendant to four wheelchairs, the other chairs being pushed by mentally handicapped people. In the narrow streets of Teignmouth, this posed a hazard."

"The fact is there are too few nurses looking after too many people and exhibiting too little sense of responsibility."

"The government must put more money into subnormality hospitals if it is to realise its aims of integration. There is no way severely mentally handicapped people will become integrated unless they holiday in small groups."

Continued on Page 12

## Spastics News has changed!

— but it is still on the right side of the Law

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Clara Wilkinson meets P.C. John Stockwell.

Jack Blake

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## THE DIRECTOR

# The gift that works both ways



This month sees the announcement of an important new initiative by The Spastics Society — the scheme under which The Society will obtain substantial assistance from the Commission of the Economic Communities to sponsor a project in Bombay, to be administered by The Spastics Society of India.

Details of the scheme appear on the front page of *Spastics News*. My concern is more with the philosophy involved.

Historically, the activities of The Society have been confined to England and Wales, although support has been given regularly to international umbrella organisations concerned with handicap. Small contributions have also been made occasionally to individual projects overseas.

### Benefits for us

There is nothing, however, in the original constitution of The Society which prevents us from becoming active overseas, and given our position as the leading organisation in the world concerned with cerebral palsy, it seems in many ways appropriate that steps should now be taken to share the expertise and re-

sources which have been developed over the last 31 years within the United Kingdom. There is no doubt that immense benefits can follow from closer relationships with overseas organisations involved with problems similar to those which we face at home.

### Help for India

Inevitably, some people will question why The Society has chosen to back this particular project shortly after its decision to establish Cerebral Palsy Overseas. The reason is simple. To obtain such a large grant from the CEC, it was necessary for the application to be made by a substantial and well-established organisation. It is unlikely that a smaller or newly founded body would have been successful in an application of this size.

More importantly, there is the question of how The Society should extend its horizons. I believe that this scheme is an important step in the develop-

ment of our thinking. There are many organisations run from the UK which have worldwide interests and raise funds precisely because of their overseas activities. By expanding the areas in which The Society is willing to function, I am confident that it will be opening up new sources of funds and support.

### 5 to 1 arithmetic

The arithmetic of the India project is particularly attractive since for every £1 that The Society contributes, more than £5 will be spent in total by the CEC and The Spastics Society of India (which enjoys tax advantages not available to charities in this country). This leverage surpasses even the matching funds schemes which are often a feature of fund-raising by voluntary organisations.

It is also necessary to put The Society's contribution in context. A commitment of £91,000 over three years represents considerably less than 0.2 per cent of The Society's estimated expenditure during that period; in other words, less than a quarter of a penny in the pound. It can hardly be suggested that The Society is diverting significant resources from its activities in the UK.

I am confident that if we adopt an outward looking attitude the cost to The Society will be more than outweighed by the benefits and the support we gain from previously untapped quarters.

*Tim X*

## Letters to the Editor

Spastics News 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

### Philatelists' Club?

In answer to the letter from Ian Conroy of The Spastics Society in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* June 1983, asking for philatelists to write to Mr. Jim Woods of Princess Marina Centre, I did just that on 26 May and as yet have received no reply.

I hoped that as one handicapped philatelist to another we could strike up a stamp swapping, pen-pal connection, but I keep on waiting for a reply.

Please could you ask some people who are philatelists to write to me? Their letters would be very welcome and all would be answered. Even letters from non-philatelists would be welcome. I might convert them!

**J. Haynes,**  
120 Haslewood Drive,  
Ebor Gardens,  
Leeds LS9 7PL.

The good news from Jim Woods is that he has had so many replies to his appeal in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, that he is happy but deluged. As Jim doesn't write himself, he is dictating his replies to members of staff at Princess Marina Centre. He will get round to them all but it may take him a little while. It is hoped that through Jim Woods and Mr. Haynes and their fellow enthusiasts, it will be possible to start a philatelists' club for the disabled. Jim Woods will be pleased to hear from would-be members; his address is Princess

Marina Centre, Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 2QR. Alan Conroy at The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, has offered to help.

Editor

### Thank you for helping

At last we have achieved our aim and four of our children are holidaying in our very own caravans, sited in Pensarn, Clwyd, North Wales.

It has taken us three years hard work to raise the money, but how proud we felt when our Appeals Chairman, Ken Bailey, invited the Mayor of Colwyn Bay, Councillor Vera Percival, and the Mayor of Trafford, Councillor Daniel Sullivan, to cut the blue ribbons and declare the caravans open.

The cutlery, crockery and bedding for the caravans was bought with £500 from the Blue Peter Fund. The garden was stocked with flowers and plants from our local garden centre, thanks to Peter Yates, proprietor.

Finally, our sincere thanks to everyone who made donations, ran marathons, organised functions and helped to make our dream of two holiday caravans for the children of the Lil Stockdale Centre come true.

**Joan Walton**  
Appeals Organiser,  
The Lil Stockdale Centre,  
Sale, Cheshire.

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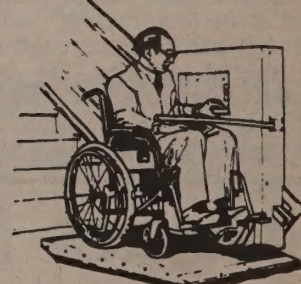
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## REPORTS

### European conference

#### Getting to know you

Twenty delegates from nine European countries met at Castle Priory College from 13-16 June to share their experiences about employment and leisure opportunities for disabled people in Europe, and their right to choice. The seminar was financed by the European Commission as part of a wider series of projects on the mobility of disabled people. It is the second time the Commission has funded a Society project.

Language differences produced few problems, thanks to an interpreter for delegates from the Italian Spastics Society. But cultural differences turned out to be great. Not only did the definition of disability vary from one country to another; so did traditional attitudes, the development of legislation and the provision of services. Some delegates were franker than others about the weaknesses in their own countries.

Nevertheless, there were some lively discussions. Speakers, such as Mike Cotton and Stephen Williams from The Society, and Dr. Mary Croxson from the Open University, led discussions which covered the role of legislation, quota systems, positive discrimination, partial-incapacity benefits, transport and leisure time.

Delegates from Holland and Germany particularly favoured a common quota system and positive discrimination in employment. Few delegates were happy to leave promotion of further integration to goodwill alone.

On the last day, a perform-

ance by the theatre company, Graecae, was received enthusiastically. Apparently, no similar companies of disabled actors exist in other countries.

At the final dinner Mrs. Joyce Smith thanked the visiting delegates on behalf of The Society for coming to Castle Priory to share their views and knowledge with us.

The warmth of the final partings reflected the overall feeling of the seminar: that we should all work more closely to further the cause of disabled people throughout Europe.

Amanda Jordan  
(For more on Graecae see page 11)

### PHAB's AGM

#### Optimistic, but in the red

The Annual General Meeting of PHAB was held at Owens Park, Manchester on 26 June.

Integration was the theme of Sir Peter Baldwin's annual report. The Chairman of PHAB said that in the coming year PHAB should build on its achievements and become more involved with other societies and groups to encourage integration.

Over the last four years the number of PHAB clubs has increased from 100 to 400. However, there was a deficit of £38,867 for the year ending March 1983.

From the reports and recommendations of the leaders' conference, seven resolutions emerged and were accepted by the membership. The major resolutions were 1) to increase communication at all levels, 2) to extend and increase junior PHAB clubs, 3) to be involved in planning the International

Year of Youth (1985), 4) to consider holding a national PHAB week and 5) that PHAB should work towards integrating physically handicapped people with able bodied people.

George Wilson, Director of RADAR, also took "Integration at home and abroad" as the subject of his address. He said that often integration cannot be supported by legislation. Legislation can help if integration is hampered by current practice, for example, the British Standard Code of Practice on building regulations could improve access for, and the social integration of, disabled people. But he was doubtful whether legislation could help to change the attitudes of the able-bodied towards disabled people. But the barriers preventing integration must be resolved at a local level, wherever possible, and by co-operation. This involves providing resources such as improved transport and accessible toilets. Facilities have improved over the last ten years.

Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to ask questions.

Sharon Hughes

### Regional conferences

#### "Yes" to anti-discrimination legislation

##### WEST REGION

The Spastics Society held the first of its regional conferences on anti-discrimination legislation in Cheltenham on 10 June. The meeting, which was organised by The Society's West Region, attracted about 70 people, more than anticipated.

Speakers at the conference included Chris Davies who dis-

cussed the elaborate but largely effective legislative framework that has grown up in the United States.

Ron Gerver, Chairman of The Society's National Consumer Group, spoke on the importance of involving disabled people as closely as possible in the decision-making processes of The Society, and in any campaign for legal reform.

But the main contribution of the day was made by the participants themselves. This was divided into two parts. First, a series of discussion groups was formed at which particular topics of vital concern to disabled people were discussed. Then the meetings came together as one body to express opinions from the floor.

The resolution adopted by the conference reflected the mood of an overwhelming majority of those present that existing law on disability rights was grossly inadequate and needed to be strengthened. Several areas were mentioned for urgent legislative attention. These included employment, access to buildings and the insurance of disabled people.

Ron Gerver

##### WALES

About 50 people, many of them young and disabled, some in wheelchairs, came to Sully on Friday 24 June. The standard of debate was high and there was excellent participation from the floor. People seemed to have a good grasp of the issues.

The main concern dominating the meeting was employment.

It was agreed that the 3 per cent quota was totally ineffective and that there was urgent need for legislation with some teeth, and an overseeing body with powers to enforce it. Disabled people should be included on the overseeing body. People recognised, however,

that the current high level of unemployment in the UK made the situation more tricky to handle, though no one seemed worried that any measure for positive discrimination might run the risk of antagonising the general public.

There was a feeling that disabled people could do jobs just as well as able-bodied people, but were not given the chance. It was said that people tended to be categorised into "employable disabled" and "unemployable disabled" depending largely on whether the disability was visible. One speaker (who could only communicate by pointing to letters and words on a board) said, "Without that little job my life would be hell because I need a job to think that I am being useful".

The general view was that disabled people must get more involved in policymaking: because they had been only involved peripherally, in the past, fundamental mistakes had been made not only by the government but by voluntary organisations.

Another speaker thought that it was vital to educate young disabled people about their rights and to encourage them to take their own decisions.

In summary of the general discussion it was said that discrimination against disabled people was a reality, but disabled people were their own worst enemies. They were afraid to become militant or to demand change in case they upset people and help they needed was withdrawn. Given the political structures and the bureaucracy, it was hard to bring about change without pressure; despite the risks, disabled people must become more militant.

Only three people dissented from the motion that (anti-discrimination) "legislation on specific aspects is desirable".

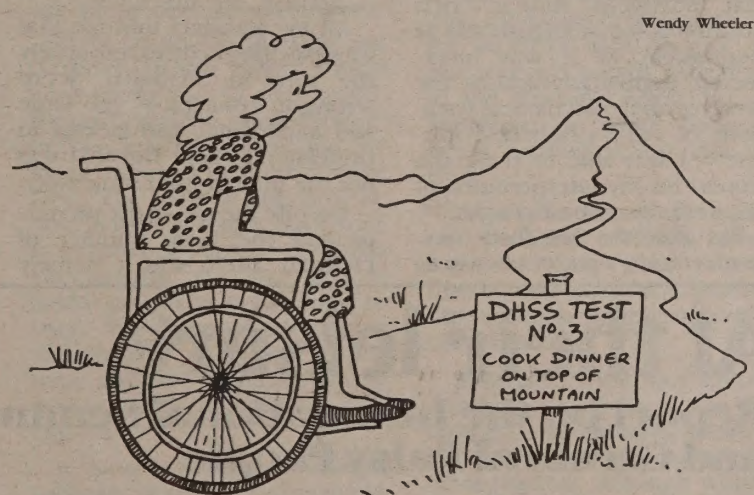
Hilary Leslie

In July 1982, Members of Parliament called on the government to abolish the household duties test. This "humiliating, degrading and discriminatory" practice, requiring married women to prove that they are incapable of carrying out their household "duties", is a pre-requisite for the award of a housewives' non-contributory invalidity pension (HNCIP). It is the worst illustration of the way in which our social security system discriminates against married, or cohabiting, women.

The test has been under review since July 1980, but to date there have been no announcements relating to abolition or amendment. In consequence, a further day of action was planned this year and on 13 July a press conference was held in the House of Commons to lobby MPs.

HNCIP stems from a decision taken in 1974. After reviewing the social security provision for chronically sick and disabled people who were unable to work, under pensionable age and ineligible for contributory benefits, the Labour government introduced a new non-means tested benefit. But it was to be paid at a lower rate, on the grounds that it would be inconsistent with the contributory basis of the National Insurance scheme to pay the full rate.

It was originally confined to men and single women. Only when a group of backbenchers at the committee stage of the Social Security Act (1975) insisted on special provision for married women, was it included. However, implementa-



## Disabled and de-graded

Linda Avery reveals how 240,000 women lose £19.70 a week

tion was delayed until November 1977 — nearly two years after the first payment of NCIP to men and single women — and the regulations applied to HNCIP were particularly harsh.

To qualify for NCIP, the claimant must prove that he or she is incapable of work for which an employer would pay. But the married woman is subjected to a dual test: she must also prove that she is incapable of performing her normal household duties. She must ex-

plain how well she can clean, cook, shop, and so on, assessing her performance in terms of degree of pain or difficulty. The DHSS then obtains a separate assessment from the applicant's GP in support of the claim.

The claim is decided by a National Insurance Officer. There is a right of appeal to the local tribunal, with a subsequent right of appeal to the Commissioners. The success rate of appeals is remarkably high — a clear indication of the

difficulties the test has caused the adjudicating authorities.

Nor has the DHSS been slow in reducing entitlement to the benefit. Originally the applicant had to show that what she was unable to do was substantial; what she was able to do was immaterial. This interpretation resulted from a decision made by the National Insurance Commissioners in September 1978. Within two working days the DHSS amended the regulations. Now an applicant has to show that what she cannot do is substantial and that what she can do is insubstantial.

The amendments made an already restrictive test more stringent. Some 240,000 women are now excluded from HNCIP.

The test humiliates and obstructs those women to whom it applies, and penalises their efforts to overcome disability. It is wholly inappropriate for the great majority of women who have been forced to give up work because of a new or deteriorating disability. Married women have to reach a more severe stage of disablement to qualify for the pension than men or single women.

Why is it that disabled married women are subjected to such treatment? Quite simply, the answer lies in the apparent immortality of Beveridge's view that a married woman was by definition a housewife dependent on her "breadwinner" husband.

Yet evidence from household surveys (1978-82) confirms that 70 per cent of women in employment are married. The

Equal Opportunities Commission has stated that women's wages are frequently an integral part of a family's income and determine its standard of living.

Nevertheless, in February 1982, Hugh Rossi, then Minister for Social Security, was still cleaving to the Beveridge line. He based his opinion on records which show that most married women chose to pay the lower rate National Insurance contributions. But this ignores the fact that married women had no incentive to pay the higher rate since they were only entitled to lower rates of benefit. Furthermore, women's wages were notoriously low in comparison with male workers: higher National Insurance contributions would have taken a great proportion of their wages.

Social security provision was specifically excluded from the sex discrimination legislation in 1975. Although an EEC directive requires equal treatment for men and women in this area, the last Conservative administration maintained that this does not include housewives and is therefore not an authority for amending HNCIP regulations. Nevertheless, the same government went on record as expressing concern for disabled people.

The review of the household duties test must surely be reaching completion. It offers the new Minister for Social Security, Dr. Rhodes Boyson, an ideal opportunity to reaffirm the Conservative government's concern by abolishing the test and removing a particularly distasteful example of discrimination.



## INTERNATIONAL

More has probably been written about China than about most other countries. Yet as a result of its relative isolation and of its political introspection, a visit to this vast territory of over 3.7 million square miles with its population of over 1,300 million people provides a picture very different from that painted by the guide books. This visit followed my experiences in Vietnam and so added to the contrast.

At first contact, China has all the outward signs of a developed nation with its modern cities, thriving industry and prosperous commercial approach. The guide books were right about the bicycles and the blue serge uniforms, the caps for the men and the blue berets for the women, so reminiscent of London's underground. But this was Beijing, the political and language capital of China, the centre for tourism and a shop window for the West.

My interpreter for the ten days was a Chinese girl, fluent in English though she had not been outside China, and barely taller than the piles of luggage.

Recent years have produced a great increase in the number of professional visitors to China, but I suspect that I was one of the first to be interested in severe handicap and cerebral palsy. This was evident from the programme prepared for me which included the traditional visits to welfare factories for the disabled and welfare centres for children.

One cannot but be impressed by the factories: they are normal industrial places producing good quality goods sold at competitive prices. One manager told me that the goods were bought because they were good value rather than because they were made by the disabled.

These factories make a notional profit after payment of wages. The disabled employees receive the same as their able-bodied colleagues, who account for about 60 per cent of the work force, and profits are ploughed back.

The interests of disabled peo-

# China — the long march against tradition

by Derek Lancaster-Gaye



*The Great Wall of China, the only man-made structure on Earth visible from the Moon.*

ple are well represented on the Workers Councils and I have little doubt that the views expressed reflected the majority.

Certainly I shall remember the superb Chinese carpets made so expertly by deaf workers in one factory, and the impromptu concert provided for me by blind workers in Shan-

ghai. "Edelweiss" sung in a rich baritone voice in English was as memorable as it was unexpected, particularly against the overcrowded, mechanical backcloth of the workshop. Fortunately, I was able to resist the request for my interpretation of "There'll always be an England".

But after the first three welfare factories, a pattern began to



*Time for music at the Children's Welfare Centre in Shanghai.*

emerge. I was keen to see an industrial unit catering for the more severely disabled. None so far had provided facilities for anyone in a wheelchair and none of the workers had been cerebral palsied.

I was given special permission to visit a factory that was off limits to Western visitors. Here the facilities were indescribably bad in grossly overcrowded conditions in premises underground. But still no severely disabled people.

I saw several children's welfare centres. The one in Shanghai was home for 634 children under the age of 16. Over 600 of them had been abandoned.

This is a major problem in China. Like the majority of Asian countries, China has an extended family concept. Children are expected to look after their parents in their old age. But positive disincentives exist for parents who think of having more than one child, and if their first born is disabled or female, their prospects of being cared for in old age are remote. It is very tempting, therefore, to abandon such a child in the expectation that the next will be a strapping male. Some, it is rumoured, are destroyed.

All my instincts told me that these welfare centres, especially the one in Shanghai, were wrong in concept — too large and impersonal, and lacking in professional skills. But that was not the impression I took away.

Despite the age of the premises and the large number of children, there was a homely

feel about the centre and very devoted, caring staff. The children were happy and appeared content. What was sad, however, was the total lack of knowledge and understanding about cerebral palsy which, as in Vietnam, was seen as something too difficult to cope with.

There was no treatment apart from very limited functional therapy and some acupuncture. Dramatic results were claimed for some of the children, but I was left in little doubt that for the majority of CP children about 30 per cent of the total, little was done and future prospects were poor. There were no occupational therapists, speech therapists or physiotherapists on the staff. Psychologists were



*The Head of the Children's Welfare Centre in Shanghai.*

not available, and no organised programmes were prepared for each child. This was to be the pattern of other welfare centres I visited, all of them in the countryside and out of sight.

The Great Wall of China stretching for over 2,000 miles, China's membership of the nuclear club, and its cultural longevity, all belie the fact that China is a developing country in need of knowledge and help. The need is acknowledged by welfare leaders.

China's 130 million disabled people do not have a fair deal, certainly not in our terms. Discussions are taking place about the possibility of Cerebral Palsy Overseas co-operating with the Chinese government to provide teaching and training.

## At their leisure

### Report on the International Seminar on Leisure and Cerebral Palsy People

The first International Seminar on leisure organised by CP ISRA was held at Lamego, a hilltop town in northern Portugal, from 20-25 June. The area, rich in history and adjacent to the famous Douro valley, was chosen for its environment.

The Recreational Sub Committee chaired by Joyce Knowles of The Society's Castle Priory College, organised the programme, while Mrs Christina Louro, Director of the Gulbenkian Cerebral Palsy Centre in Lisbon, controlled the administration.

Over 140 delegates arrived on Monday afternoon. They received a paper by Craig Huber of United Cerebral Palsy Associations Inc., "A philosophical view of non-competitive sports and leisure for CP people".

Tuesday morning saw the seminar off to a good start with a paper by Martin Lazell of Churchtown Farm on using the rural environment. Following the plenary session the delegates split into groups for rural studies, arts and crafts, urban

environment, wheelchair dancing, field sports, music and drama and traditional games.

The pattern of these small workshops was repeated each day, with delegates investigating the fascinating world of urban development, learning to appreciate local history, trying their hand at brass rubbings in the ancient cathedral in Lamego as well as taking riverside walks and discovering the incredible beauty of the countryside.

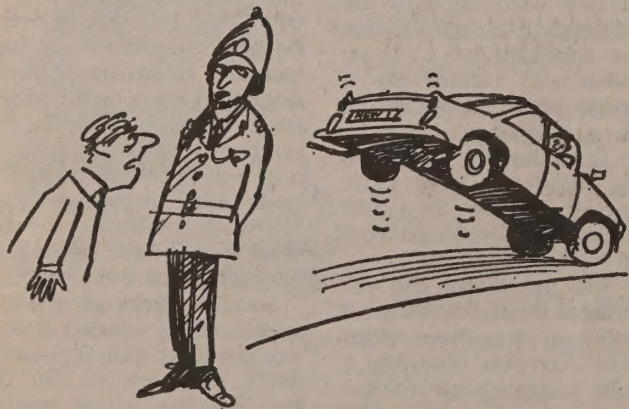
Prior to workshop sessions, delegates received some major papers. At a symposium chaired by Richard Gray, Jan Knight of Dene College, Tonbridge spoke of her work in leisure and recreational counselling and with volunteers. Marianne West from The Society's Social Services Department spoke interestingly about setting up the English 62 Clubs and their position in the development of recreational facilities for handicapped people in the UK.

The work of the seminar was publicised on Portuguese radio and television.

On Friday, while the Executive Committee of CP ISRA met for their AGM, the seminar put on an all day market which was well attended by the people of Lamego and the surrounding districts. That evening, the last night of the seminar, saw a grand barbecue with the traditional grilled sardines, and entertainment by a town band — which gave the British delegates an opportunity to entertain the Portuguese.

In his final address, Commander Cameron, the President of CP ISRA, talked of how it had started in 1978 with competitive sport. International athletic and swimming events had grown larger and more professional, but he had been awaiting the day when due emphasis could be given to the undoubted value of leisure and recreation to handicapped people.

He finished by thanking everyone who had helped with the seminar. In his view, and ours, it had been a great success. **Richard Gray**



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## The work of the Hera Unit

# More health, less handicap

The Hera Unit was launched in 1982. Funded by The Spastics Society and operating from Park Crescent in London, it is nevertheless an autonomous body capable of independent and original research into the prevention of handicap. Its work falls into three areas: collecting, using and publicising information about handicap prevention which has been gleaned from many sources; conducting its own research; and liaising with voluntary and statutory bodies where its expertise can be of use.

Headed by Dr. Nick Sidle, the Hera Unit staff have produced two reports, *Smoking in Pregnancy — a Review* and now *Maternal Posture*. They have also completed a review of the literature on *Herpes simplex viral infections in pregnancy and the neonatal period*. Their files on topics such as epidemiology are considered very helpful in a field where there is so much untapped information and evidence. Three current projects are discussed below.

### Which women are at most risk?

Applying a "risk-approach" to antenatal care means identifying those women most likely to have a poor pregnancy outcome, such as a small or premature baby. These women may then be offered advice on how to reduce risk, if this is possible, or they may be closely observed for any abnormal symptoms so that action can be taken.

Other patients should of course continue to receive a high standard of care. So there's something for all but more for those who need it.

Who is likely to have a poor pregnancy outcome?

Several aspects of a woman's health or habits are known to put her at risk. The effects of smoking and alcohol consumption during pregnancy are well documented; so is the increased risk among older women of having a Down's Syndrome baby. These are only a few from a long list.

But there are also factors which may make a positive contribution to fetal wellbeing, such as good diet, adequate exercise, avoiding undue physical and mental strain. Women on their own or with medical guidance can take steps to avoid or reduce risks.

The work being done by the Hera Unit at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, involves measuring the risk associated with many aspects of a woman's medical and obstetric history and with her health and habits at the onset of pregnancy. It is hoped that this work will help obstetricians to determine the overall risk in a woman with more than one risk factor and how best they can reduce the poor outcome in their population, and to monitor the effect of any treatment they give.

In 1978 the World Health Organisation recommended that a risk approach should be used to improve services in the field of maternal and child health care. The research being undertaken by the Hera Unit and the staff of St Mary's Obstetric Department is a step in this direction. Once a scoring approach has been worked out, it can be applied to any obstetric population provided local

variations are taken into account.

Provisional results will be available shortly.

Marie McCusker, B.Sc, M. Med.Sci.

### Why do many girls avoid vaccination?

Rubella (German Measles) is a virus disease that causes a mild illness in most people and often goes unnoticed. If it is caught by a woman whilst she is in the early stages of pregnancy, however, it can cause severe damage to the unborn child. This is especially tragic because rubella is a preventable disease: there is an effective vaccine that is offered to schoolgirls in the U.K. Unfortunately, not all girls accept or receive vaccination.

Eight schools in the City and Hackney Health District have been taking part in a six month research project, funded jointly by The Spastics Society and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. The aims of the project, now in its final stages, have been to improve the uptake of rubella vaccination via the school health programme in Hackney; to study the effects of administrative changes and health education; and to examine closely why some people are not vaccinated.

A simple health education package for teachers containing slides, a suggested text, background reading and leaflets for the girls and their parents was introduced at teachers' meetings in four schools and were later used in these schools. Changes in administration and teaching were restricted to those which could be carried out by existing staff.

All girls who missed the vaccination (apart from those where a signed consent form with-holding parental permission had been returned) were interviewed to assess the reason for not being vaccinated.

Results so far have been encouraging, indicating that significant improvements in the uptake of vaccination could be made by using existing resources more efficiently. However it would be inappropriate to draw any firm conclusions until the computer analysis is complete. A full report will be available later in the year.

Gerry Blache



The Hera Unit off duty — Pam Chrispin, Nick Sidle (who has since become a GP), Gerry Blache and Marie McCusker.

### Maternal posture: squatters' rights?

Childbirth is currently a popular topic, and public debate ranges between those desiring greater freedom of choice and those who feel that "high-tech" births, although frequently dehumanizing, are the only way to ensure reduction in the numbers of perinatal deaths and handicapped babies. But is freedom of choice incompatible with safety?

The Hera Unit has just completed a review of all the evidence in the last 10 years on one aspect of this debate — maternal posture during late pregnancy, labour and delivery. This showed that posture can have great effect on many factors relevant to maternal and fetal outcome.

A supine (flat-on-your-back) position, for instance, compresses the large blood vessels in the mother's abdomen in late pregnancy, leading to a reduction in the blood flow to the baby. This can cause profound maternal shock or fetal distress. Yet mothers are usually laid down in the antenatal clinic for examination or when they are being monitored for fetal distress.

During labour, a supine position probably prolongs labour, increases some drug requirements, and does not produce the optimum pattern of uterine contractions.

Alternative positions such as standing or all-fours are not harmful, and squatting seems to be the most physiologically advantageous, although women in this country have great difficulty in maintaining it for long periods.

Caesarean Section is usually carried out in a supine position, yet a lateral tilt position may be more advantageous for mother and baby, if more complex for the surgeon.

Although alternative positions do not appear to have detrimental effects, the review did show that maternal instincts are not always the best indicator of the safety of the baby: the most comfortable position may not be the most physiologically sound. Even so, consideration of posture may be a simple way of making birth more pleasurable for parents, and a little safer for the child.

Pam Chrispin, M.B.,B.S.

*Maternal Posture — A Review of the Evidence*, is the second Hera Unit Report. Available end of July, £2.50 from the Information Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.



## Stepping up in style

Most wheelchairs promise to take you up a kerb but bring you back down to earth again with a bump. The Ortopedia smooths out those bumps and brings back comfort you'd almost forgotten existed. Its spring-coiled suspension and Harvest Gold upholstery will cushion you up and down kerbs, forwards and backwards, wherever you want to go. Special purpose re-chargeable batteries, four braking systems and a host of 'special' features we call 'standard' add up to the finest wheelchair you can buy.

As with all the best things the Ortopedia costs a little more. It's a real investment and you will want to be sure about your choice. So don't take our word for it, try the Ortopedia yourself in the comfort of your own home. Sit in it, drive it, and feel the total comfort and control. We guarantee you'll like its style.

**Everest & Jennings**  
Wheelchairs and Aids for the Disabled

To: Everest & Jennings Ltd Princewood Rd Corby Northants NN17 2DX Telephone Corby 67661

I'd like to try the Ortopedia for myself. Please arrange for my personal home demonstration of:

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Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_



# After a hard day's play...

## Bathing your cerebral-palsied child

Bathing is essential for personal hygiene, but it is also fun — a time for children to learn about their bodies, to practise washing and to experience the feeling of water round them as well as to play and relax. Try to set aside ample time for bathing in your daily routine.

If your cerebral palsied child finds it difficult to sit in the bath, he may need special seating. Once he is safely positioned, your hands will be free to wash him and to encourage him to play in the water. A low stool beside the bath may put you in a better position for play.

The range of children's

bath aids is expanding. Choose one which supports your child comfortably and correctly in the water, allows his hands to reach the water for play and lets him see what's going on.

As your child grows older and lifting becomes more difficult, you may need a bath board, hoist or specially designed bath, and support rails on the walls. A shower may be more convenient.

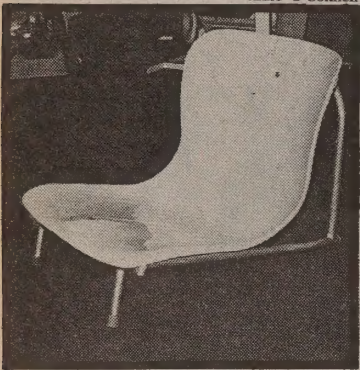
The occupational therapist at your local Social Services Department can help choose the most appropriate aid, and advise you about obtaining one. Social Services may provide the aid for you.



Most of the aids below are on display in the Aids and Equipment Resource Room at The Spastics Society. If you would like to see them or obtain further information, contact Liz Proctor, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Tel: 01-387 9571.

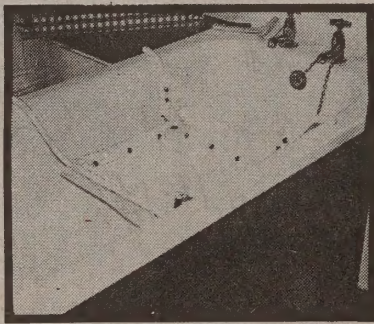
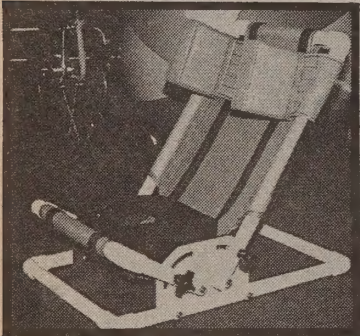
## Supporting a child in a sitting position

Anne O'Connell



Left: Joncare bath seat has a metal frame and moulded fibreglass seat. Velcro safety straps may be added. For a child who has sitting balance. £49 plus VAT.

Below left: Small Rifton bath chair is made of stainless steel covered in waterproof plastic. Frame adjusts from a lying to a sitting position and folds flat. The E83 costs £109.50 plus VAT.



Below centre: Safa bath seat has a metal frame with plastic seat and cutouts for legs. It hooks on to the side of a standard bath. For children 2-5 years with good head and trunk control but no sitting balance. Can be made to measure. £19 plus VAT, postage and packing.

Not shown: Burnett vacuum bath support is a PVC bag shaped with a back and two arms, filled with polystyrene balls from which air is pumped to make the right shape. Secures to bath with suction pads. £55 plus VAT.

### Do it Yourself

Tie two inner tubes together (see above) and place on non-slip mat, or cut out a section from the side and base of a plastic laundry basket and line with plastic foam. Both will give sitting support to a small child.

## Support in a lying or semi-reclining position



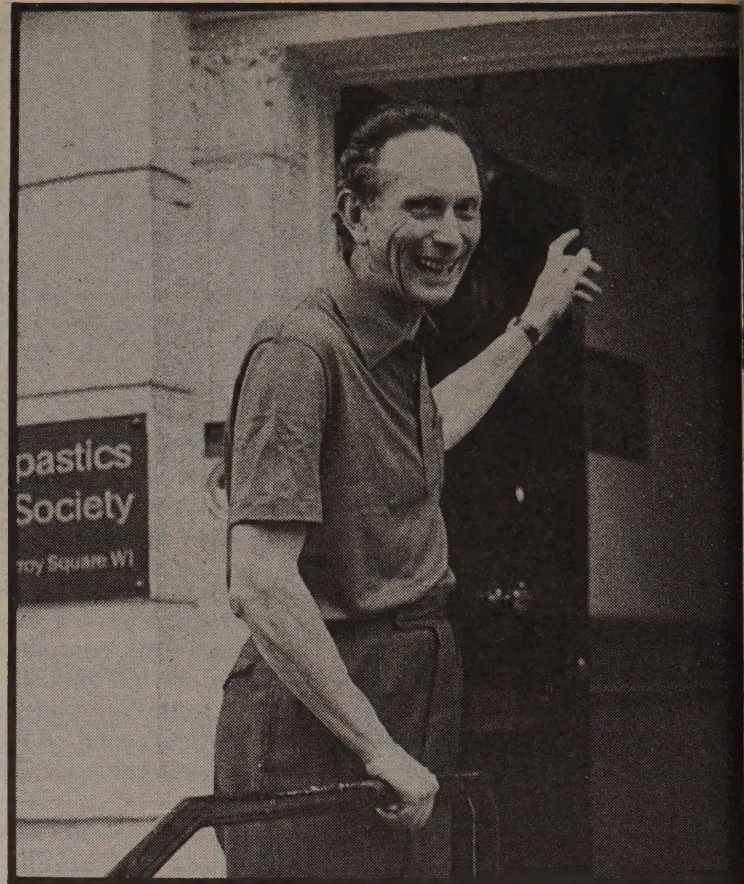
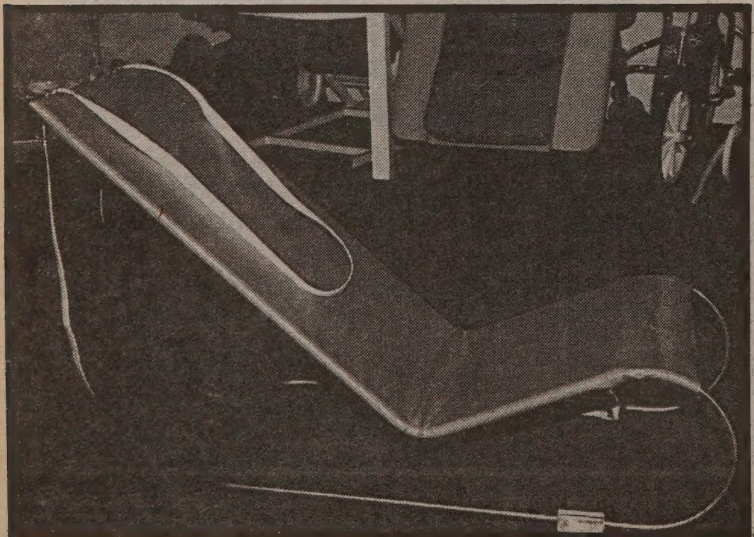
Left: The Ortho Kinetics bath care chair allows you to lift a child straight into the bath. It has a metal frame on castors, orange mesh and velcro fastening. Suitable for older children. £115 plus VAT.

Below left: Child's semi-reclining bath support by Hasi has a steel frame with vinyl seat that shapes to the back and hips, and a chest strap. Suitable for older children. £68 plus VAT.

Not shown: The Sunflower shallow bath, Z824, is a thermoplastic false bath with drainage outlet that inserts into a normal bath to save bending. A 30° inclined backrest is available. £60 plus VAT.

### Do it yourself

Adapt a Mothercare baby bath (price £6.25) by attaching a bar underneath at the head end which hooks on to each side of the bath. Pierce drainage holes in the lower end. Suitable for a young child with poor head control. Or make a hammock to fit your bath using a metal or wooden frame, slightly inclined, and a nylon seat with cutout holes. Details from The Spastics Society, address as above.



All contributions this way! Christopher Robinson, organiser of the Fair, guides the proceeds to their destination, Fitzroy Centre. £2,854 net was raised.



"What's it all about?" Joe appeals to his father Nigel Tuckett, The Society's graphic designer, while Wendy Andrews the publicity officer holds the baby, and Alison Beedie and Ruth Cottrell from London Region dish up delicious French food.



After a long day... Hugh Armstrong and his wife Bridget, from the Legacies Department, had been out at six a.m. to get free flowers from Covent Garden.



## JOINING IN THE FUN AT THE SPASTICS SOCIETY'S

# FITZROY Fair

People coming to Fitzroy Square on 23 June for the 6th annual Fair had no need of an A-Z. Music from Capital Radio's cruiser could be heard streets away.

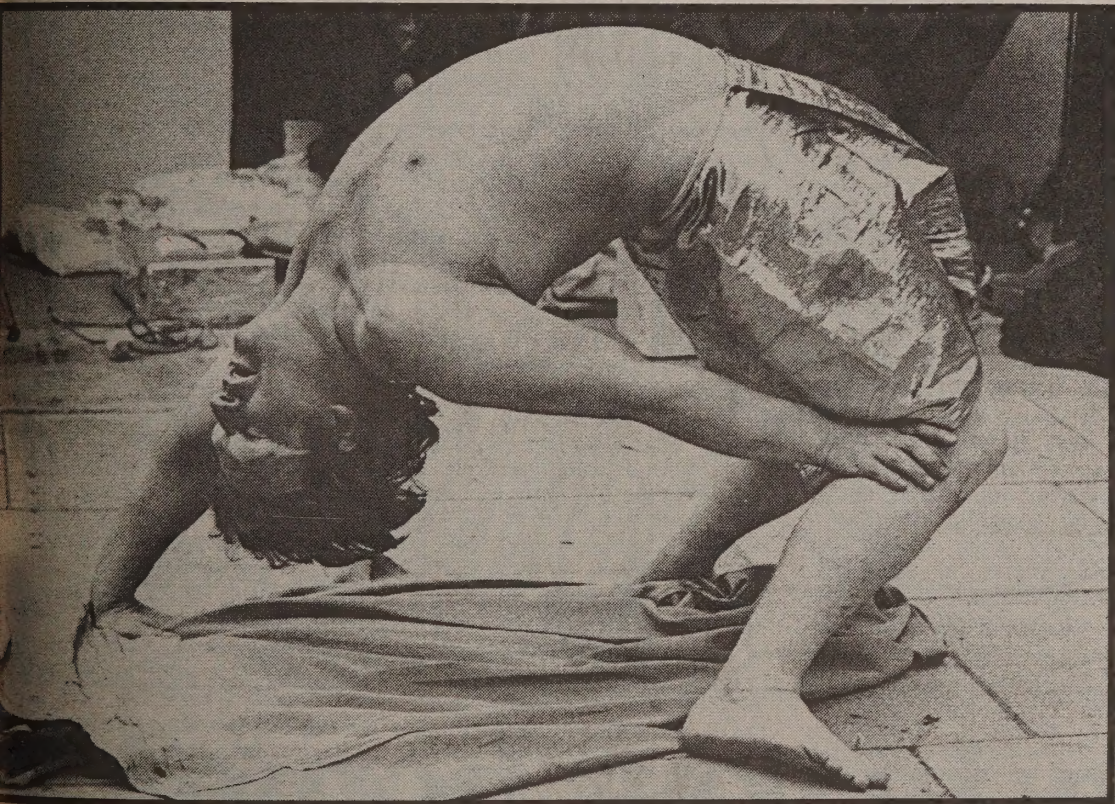
In the square they found everything a fair should have — stalls, sideshows, competitions, a fire eater, a fortune teller, pretty girls selling balloons, hamburgers sizzling, wine and beer flowing. Dominating one end was a giant wheel, all lit up, its gyrations making the chil-

dren squeal and anyone older feel distinctly queasy.

Smiley the Clown as there beating a drum and chatting up the children. The *Spastics News* sandwich girl distributed copies to a — naturally — delighted readership. Ben, son of the director's secretary, Charlotte Smart, stood beside his 12 speed Raleigh Record Ace attracting sponsorship for his lone ride from Lands End to John O'Groats starting 20 July. As the evening wore on, the French food stall did a roar-

ing trade. A jazz band started up. The draw for the tombola got a laugh. Had it been rigged? John Belcher won first prize — an inflatable raft — and Pam Giles, the raffles organiser, got the champagne glasses and the cake (she later relinquished the cake). As we left, Smiley's girlfriend was selling "a kiss for a pound" and getting plenty of custom.

The evening's festivities raised £2,854 (net) for the Society's Fitzroy Centre. A fair effort?



High Priest Teshcata, Lord of the Inca's, keeps fit in between lying on broken glass under a bed of nails, and eating fire. Child: "Do you eat anything else?" High Priest: "No I'm on a diet".



"Throw seven sixes and win a Citroen!" — no one did. Technical Services were in control here — Elena Clayton, Eddie Telford and Charles Clayton — with Betty Sharp rattling the dice.



Ben Smart, 17, hopes to raise £2,000 for The Society. Among admirers of his 12-speed Raleigh Record Ace was Michael Belcher, son of the new Social Services Director.

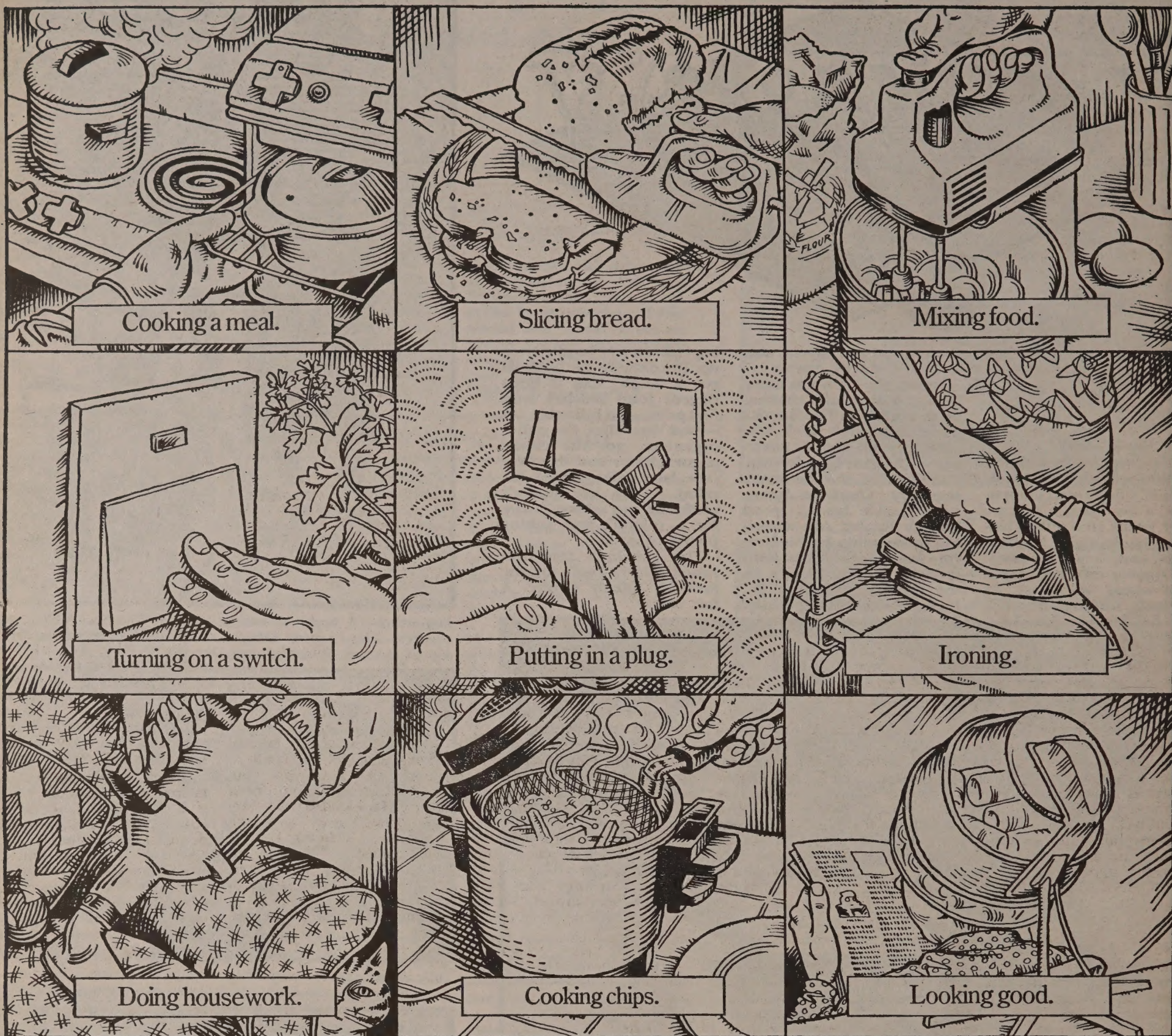


Little did we expect . . . Bill Hargreaves meets Marion Cassin-Scott, a member of his new Brent group. Angus Reid joins in the laugh.



There's a string attached — £1. Tracey Bowie gets the money and Camilla Wilkinson gets a silver balloon.





## Is it this easy in your home?

At your Electricity Board, we have a leaflet called "Making Life Easier for Disabled People".

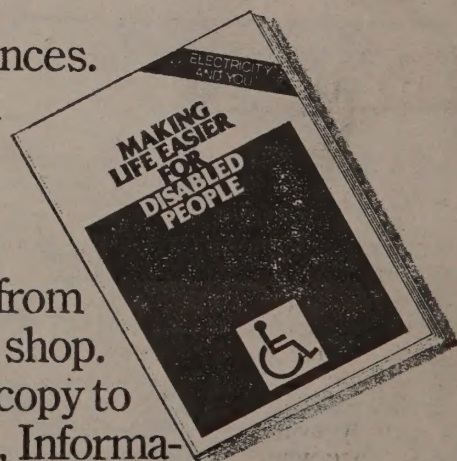
It contains lots of helpful ideas and lists many electrical appliances which can make life easier.

Appliances such as table-top mini cookers. Electric knives which require only a slight pressure to operate. And small, hand-held vacuum cleaners which can be used for dusting, too.

The leaflet also gives details of brailled controls that can be fitted to

certain electrical appliances. And specially designed attachments for plugs and switches which afford easier handling.

The leaflet is free, from your Electricity Board shop. Or you can write for a copy to the Electricity Council, Information Centre, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4RD.



**THINK ELECTRIC**  
The Electricity Council, England and Wales.



## SPORT

The popular image of motor sport is of a small elitist world which discriminates in favour of wealth, nerve, panache and the number of martinis you drink. But does it also discriminate against the disabled? A closer look reveals a wider fraternity in the racing and rallying world than the layers of gloss suggest.

There are three main ways to follow an interest in motorsport, depending on your degree of fervour. The real fanatic will probably be satisfied with nothing less than competing in races or rallies. The ardent enthusiast could become a track official or marshal, while the moderate fan will be content to remain a regular spectator.

Oddly enough, it is often the spectator who gets the roughest ride. Those who watch from the comfort of their living room find motor racing loses out to sports like cricket, tennis or football. Racing coverage is usually limited to a half hour programme each month during the Grand Prix season, while rallying came a very poor second until recently, when Saturday afternoon coverage was stepped up to include most of the major international events. For most spectators the answer is to get to the track and watch at first hand.

If this presents practical problems for the able bodied, the problems are much worse for disabled people. Due to the potentially dangerous nature of motor sport, events have to be held out of harm's way, which usually means miles from anywhere — including the nearest basic necessities. Rally courses are not permanent in the same way as racing circuits, so it is vital to provide your own food and make all practical arrangements yourself. Some racing circuits are geared to disabled people; some are not.

Brands Hatch has a car park specially reserved for disabled drivers from which there is an excellent view of the track. But what about adapted toilet facilities, ramps and general access round the track? Robin Bradford, the Press Officer, was stumped. "I've never been asked that before", he said, "I'll find out". In fact Brands Hatch has two toilets with ramps, one at McLaren Corner, close to the special car park, and one behind the main grandstand. The average gate price for a race meeting is £3 for adults, £1 for children, although for a Grand Prix or



Mike Jackson at the wheel of his Ford Escort. Driving with one arm he misses a few gear changes.

## Raise the chequered flag

*Yvette Sanson explores the possibilities for disabled people on and off the race track*

other major event prices rise to £6 or more with no discount for disabled people.

At Silverstone access can be arranged for cars with disabled passengers and drivers, and there is a special parking and viewing area through the tunnel inside the track at Cox Corner. The toilets in the nearby Paddock area all have ramps. When booking tickets for a race meeting, you will need to state that you are disabled and give your registration number. Silverstone advises that you book well in advance. Tickets are expensive, ranging from £3.75 for a local club meeting, sold on the day only, to £16 for a Grand Prix, which must be booked well in advance. Again there is no discount for disabled people.

Donington Park was a disappointment. No adapted toilet facilities or special car park. In the past when disabled people have made enquiries, they have been advised quite simply not to go to big race meetings.

All the rules of motor sport in Great Britain are governed by The Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association. The RAC sets required standards for tracks, track officials and drivers. It is not involved in spectator facilities and there is no other organisation to set mini-

mum standards at race tracks.

If your enthusiasm takes you beyond being a spectator, you could become a marshal or track official. Ron Cottrell is a marshal at Brands Hatch and has cerebral palsy. But you have to be realistic in your expectations. Join your local rally club or a marshals' register based at your nearest race track and offer your services. Marshals are all unpaid volunteers, and the clubs will be only too happy to have new helpers. You will be given the necessary training according to the RAC marshalling handbook.

There will be some jobs that you cannot do if you are disabled. You may not be able to manhandle crashed cars, fight fires or drag drivers out of wreckage if your mobility or strength is impaired, and you will not be asked to man the phones or be an announcer if you have a serious speech impediment. However, the marshals at Brands Hatch, the British Sports and Racing Car Club, have been known to negotiate special insurance cover to allow a disabled marshal to get close to the scene of the action.

There are plenty of marshals who are happy to do paperwork and behind the scene jobs, such as pit-control or relaying mes-

sages. It is consoling to know that only one in 500, disabled or not, will ever rise to the senior positions of Chief Observer or Clerk of the Course!

To compete as a driver you must apply to the RAC. Again, it is important to be realistic about your ability to compete in relative safety. In a dangerous sport, the RAC are concerned with minimising the risks. If you have been refused a normal driving licence for medical reasons, such as epilepsy, you won't be granted a motor sport licence of any kind. If you hold a full driving licence, you can apply for whichever licence appeals most.

You will need to convince the RAC that you are fit, that you can control your vehicle fully at all times, and that in the event of a crash, you can get away from your vehicle unaided. If your application is granted, you will need to have a medical examination and a certificate from your GP saying you are fit to race. This is the same for all drivers.

Insurance can be a problem. Premiums are likely to be heavy — if you can persuade a company to take you on. If you are granted a racing or rallying licence by the RAC, they will be able to give you advice. If your

application is rejected, you have a right of appeal through the RAC medical panel in London, who are happy to review any case.

Your licence must be renewed each year, but once you hold a rally or racing licence, there is nothing to stop you working your way up to World Champion. All you need to be is the best!

Yorkshireman, Mike Jackson, has been rallying for 21 years. As a teenager he was fascinated by motor sport. At the age of 19, he lost his right arm in a car accident. "My family encouraged me to carry on in rallying", he said. "I think they've regretted it since".

He missed about half a year, then came back as a navigator. Before long he had his rally licence. "In those days you had to take a test to get it". Now he holds a full international licence, which costs him about £30 per year. He has completed about 200 rallies, including internationals in Britain and Ireland. He hopes to go to Iceland in August, but it's an expensive business and money is in short supply. In 1979 and 1980, two of his best years, the bill came to roughly £15,000 a year, and that was with sponsorship.

How did other drivers react when he took up the sport with only one arm? "They just couldn't believe it at first, my competing, especially when they found they were getting beaten occasionally".

"The best I've ever done is come third in a national rally", he said modestly. "Usually we manage 4th or 5th". His best achievement was to finish 6th overall in the 1979 national championships.

Driving enthusiasts will be interested in Mike's car, which is a Twin Cam Ford Escort, adapted for rallying. Has it needed many other adaptations? "We moved a few switches around", he said. Amazingly, it's fully manual. Mike just misses a few more gear changes than most. If he needs to steer, he doesn't change gear, and if he must change gear he lets go of the wheel for a second. It all seems to work well enough.

As a successful rally driver, would Mike Jackson recommend the sport to other disabled drivers? He sighed wistfully. "If they're wealthy!"

For new enthusiasts wanting to know more, the address of the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association Ltd., is 31 Belgrave Square, London S.W.1. Tel: 01-235-8601.

## VIEWPOINT

# Get Involved!

**Larry Walters believes that cerebral-palsied people cannot shape events unless they are part of them. Spastics News offers one opportunity.**

Soon after Mr. Harold Macmillan gave up the premiership, he was asked what he remembered most about what happened during his period as Prime Minister. With a wry smile, he replied "Events".

Events in daily living, especially for someone who is surrounded by many limitations due to handicap are very time consuming. Some events may seem trivial — such as an uncle passing away and leaving you half a million pounds. Other events, such as an achievement which you did not expect to accomplish, may be of lasting importance. However, in my view it does seem that for people with cerebral palsy, there are two particular roads which are full of events.

First, there is the road which starts at The Spastics Society. Although the Society has always had a deliberate policy of not forcing itself on anyone at any time, it has never been far away if help or guidance have been required. In spite of its enormous achievements, the road ahead is a long one. For many who now have cerebral palsy, and for the larger number who are not yet born, the going will still be far from smooth. It does seem foolish and selfish not to want to use one's own experience to provide any support that can be given.

In the United States, especially since the Vietnam war, disabled people have got themselves far more involved in the

organisations that are concerned with their type of handicap. It would be good for more people with cerebral palsy to be involved in The Spastics Society.

Several years ago I found myself a member of the Urmston and District Spastics Group. The time I spent there was memorable and I greatly treasure the friends that I made. However, when I represented that group at meetings with other groups in different parts of the country, I was the only person with cerebral palsy present. How far, I wonder, has Mr. Macmillan's "winds of change" blown across such groups since then?

The other road on which more people with cerebral palsy

should travel is the one which leads into organisations not directly concerned with disablement. Ideally, it would be a good idea to infiltrate every organisation! "Operation CP" should seek to educate and enlighten everyone who is involved in decision making. Not an easy task, but a vital one. It is astonishing how many people, even those in places where you would least expect it, are still utterly ignorant about cerebral palsy.

The enormous public relations task which the Society is so vigorously pursuing cannot make the maximum impact until people with cerebral palsy are deeply involved in consultative councils, health authorities,

tribunals, trade unions and professional institutions, and are also well entrenched inside the main political parties. Apart from letting it be seen that people with cerebral palsy can often make a valuable contribution to the community — and that we are not freaks — it will extend individual opportunities. And another thing, surely cerebral-palsied people don't want to eat, live and think disabled 24 hours each day?

For many, The Spastics Society has built new roads and bridges into the open community. More people with cerebral palsy must now travel these routes and make sure that we all enjoy the benefits of being members of the community.



# Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

## Voluntary Work?

"I left school six years ago and have not been able to get a job. I have athetoid cerebral palsy and my legs, hands and speech are affected. I would like to do something more useful than just studying and I feel I could easily manage some part-time voluntary work as well. Would it be worthwhile contacting any of the organisations which arrange voluntary work or is my disability going to be an insuperable problem?"

I am glad you are thinking of doing part-time work on a voluntary basis. Several organisations dealing with voluntary opportunities for young people, like Community Service Volunteers and the International Voluntary Service, have extended their schemes to include volunteers with disabilities. You may find it more helpful to contact them as they have a good deal of experience in this specialised field. I would also get in touch with your local Volunteer Bureau as they will know about the local possibilities.

Community Service Volunteers have a special project, the Able to Help Scheme. Write to Mary Prance, CSV, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1, giving brief details about yourself and the sort of work that you think you could do.

Sue Kendall at The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ is working closely with Mary Prance and has a special responsibility for help-

ing people with cerebral palsy to find voluntary outlets.

The International Voluntary Service is at 53 Regent Road, Leicester. LE1 6YL.

There is likely to be an Adult Literacy Scheme in your area and some severely physically disabled men and women have developed into successful tutors. Your local library should be able to give you details, and also the address of the local Volunteer Bureau.

Good luck!

## He's a loner

"I get very concerned about my son, who does not seem to be able to make friends easily. He is 30 now and has a good job. His handicap is not very noticeable, but he seems embarrassed about it when in public or in social situations. Can you suggest any ways in which his father and I could help him?"

This situation is quite common, and often rather difficult to resolve. People who have mild disabilities may well feel that they don't fit into any social group. They do not have much in common with people who have more severe handicaps and yet they don't feel easy with those who have no physical limitations at all. As a result very mildly affected people like your son, tend to become rather isolated and lonely.

Some people, able bodied or disabled, are naturally less gregarious than others and it may be that your son enjoys his own company and does not



Nigel Tuckett

want a very active social life. If, however, this does worry him, as well as being a concern to you and your husband, it might be worth suggesting that he contacts a local Phab Club or some other organisation where he could meet all sorts of different people on a social basis. Holidays also provide good opportunities for meeting others, and here again your son may find it easier to join a mixed group, where he might like to be of assistance to people who need some personal help.

I expect your son has some hobbies or special interests and there are probably local clubs or evening classes where he could meet others with similar interests. Details can usually be found in your local library or Adult Education Institute. I am also giving you some addresses. As your son is a mature man, you will need to make these suggestions rather carefully. There is nothing more likely to put people off than organising parents!

PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied) 42 Devonshire Street, London W1 1LN. RADAR (they publish a very comprehensive Holiday Guide each year) 25 Mortimer Street, London W1.

# What's On

**Horticultural Therapy** are running a regional study day for staff involved with helping disabled people with gardening on Wednesday 21 September, 1983, at Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford, Essex. Cost is £15.00. Subject "Shrub Propagation". Details from: The Course Organiser, Horticultural Therapy Training Centre, Warwickshire College of Agriculture, Moreton Morrell, Warwicks. CV35 9BL. Tel: Leamington Spa (0926) 651288.

**"Counselling and Survival"** — 7th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the British Association for Counselling at the University of Reading. 23-24 September, 1983. Fees: Resident £36.00 BAC member, £42.00 non-member; Non-Resident, £32.00 BAC member, £38.00 non-member. Details from Sue Kendall, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1.

**"Social Services Conference 1983 — Thought for Tomorrow"** 28-30 September, 1983. Organised by the Association of County Councils with the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, at the Examination School, High Road, Oxford. The intention is to examine how the past achievements of local government can be continued into the next few decades. Details from Brenda Ewington, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1.

**The 11th International Symposium of The Fulton Society**, on "Brain Metabolism", will be held on 2 October, 1983, in New Orleans, USA, together with the annual meeting of the American Neurological Association. Further details from Prof. Dr. Victor Soriano, Calle Buenos Aires 363, Montevideo, Uruguay.

**Rehabilitation International** are holding their 15th World Congress in Lisbon, Portugal, from 4-8 June, 1984. Theme is "Information, Awareness and Understanding for Integration of Disabled Persons and Society". Congress folder and details are available from Secretariado Nacional de Rehabilitacao, Av Conde Valbom, 63-5 1000 Lisbon, Portugal.

## OBITUARY

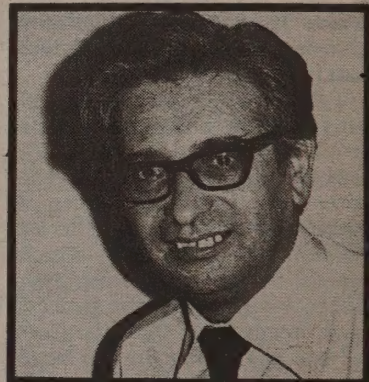
### Barrie Badland

Barrie J. Badland, Secretary of the Bolton and District Spastics Society and Chairman of its Executive Committee, died suddenly on 28 May. He was 46.

**Sharon Hughes writes:** Barrie will be deeply missed by the Bolton and District Spastics Society and by many other voluntary organisations in the Bolton area. His sincere, enthusiastic and energetic involvement in the community gave him a special place in the hearts of so many people who were privileged to know him and for whom he made the world a happier place.

The Executive Committee administers New Hyde Lea, the group's short and long stay residential home. Barrie was instrumental in its development and success; New Hyde Lea is owned by a trust fund which was set up by him.

Barrie's involvement with The Society began some eight years ago when he responded to a public appeal for help with transport. From that day on we have benefited from his total support. He had the ability to find practical solutions to problems and his humour brought a smile to so many. No task was too small to be beneath his attention, whether it was col-



lecting waste paper, providing transport for members after a meeting, or designing a special vehicle to carry passengers in their wheelchairs. His enthusiasm infected those around him and drove us on to succeed when we might otherwise have failed.

Barrie Badland was Managing Director of Mechanical Services (Trailer Engineers) Ltd., a local firm employing 150 people. The firm, which he founded, grew from a hobby into a concern that now has a national and international network of stockists. It positively discriminates in favour of disabled people. Through his connection with Birtenshaw Hall School (as a governor), he also provided school leavers with valuable work experience in his firm.

His other interests included Scouting and concern with local unemployment. Peter Thurnham, Tory MP for Bolton North East, paid tribute to Barrie when he said he would adopt Barrie's philosophy on unemployment: "While ever there are people without work in Bolton, we must go on and on to provide them with secure jobs".

Minutes before he collapsed Barrie was told that planning permission had been granted for an extension to New Hyde Lea which will provide extra bedrooms and bedsitting rooms for people wishing to live semi-independently. He would want this new project to succeed, and we who remain must continue his work.

I, and many more people, have lost a dear and dependable friend. My heartfelt sympathy goes to his widow, Sandra, and to his children, Stephen (13) and Shirley (11).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**As part of its national programme** to expand the recycling of aluminium drink cans in the UK, Cash-a-Can, which last year paid out £100,000 to collectors, has launched a competition to find the Cash-a-Can Collector of the year. Open to charities, schools, clubs, youth and voluntary organisations, the competition offers £13,500 in prize money, as well as paying for the collected tins. Entrants must register with Cash-a-Can by 31 July 1983. Forms and details from Cash-a-Can Headquarters, Goldsmith Avenue, Southsea, Hampshire. Tel: 0705 739132. The Volunteer Centre have been allocated 20 pages of information on volunteering and community activity on the Pre-

stel information service. Viewers can now use their television to request further information on featured items, and to order Centre publications, for a six-month trial period. The pages, which will be changed monthly, can be found beginning at Prestel page number 5678806.

**The Manchester Unity Odd Fellows** are launching their "Hello Happiness" Photographic Competition this summer, with a first prize of £1,000 for the photograph which conveys the happiest feelings. The competition will be launched through coupons in *Weekend Magazine* 6 August and 20 August issues. Closing date for entries is 10 September 1983.

### CITY OF MANCHESTER SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## FOR STEPHEN AND PAUL, THE ORDINARY'S UNUSUAL

Stephen and Paul are both 15. They are mentally handicapped and have spent most of their lives in institutions. They've missed out on a lot but are keen to experience and share more. Each needs a home and family, perhaps just for holiday placements to begin with. They each have a lot to give.

Paul's a good looking lad. Keen on football, fascinated by cars, he's quite an extrovert and interested in what's going on around him. He's happiest when occupied. He can flare up and exploit situations when he wants to but, in his current small children's home, he's also shown that he can be helpful around the house and quite able to look after himself. He wants security and affection and a family for whom he's special will find he'll respond.

Stephen's quieter and needs encouragement to open up. He currently attends a boarding school and, at first, we're hoping to secure foster-parents for regular holiday placements. He's keen on sport, is an excellent swimmer and also likes to help around the house. Despite his shyness, Stephen's a strong-willed lad, who can be wearing when things don't go his way. He's already shown, however, that he can manage living with a family and needs that experience on a regular basis, he too is quite capable of looking after himself.

We know that Stephen and Paul would benefit greatly from normal experience of family life — if they have the chance. Can you help? Extra allowances are payable. Enquiries should be made to Mrs. Drury, Miss Minkes, Mr. Kellaway or Mr. Jackson, telephone number — 061 223 9641 or write to them for more information at Manchester Social Services Department, 1 Campion Walk, Manchester, M11 3SB.

## CLASSIFIED

### For sale

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR FOR SALE:** Meyra-Rehab outdoor model, 4 inch kerb-climber, right hand speed control, left hand steering control with a 12 volt battery and an 18 mile range. In excellent condition, £800. Contact: Hunter, 20 Hall Lane, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3TE. Tel: 02555-2743.

**BRITAX HANDICAPPED CHILD SEAT:** 3 years old, only used during school holidays. £55 o.n.o. Contact: Bennett, 9 Ingswell Avenue, Nottun, Wakefield WS4 2NG. Tel: Barnsley 722801.

**ORTHO-KINETIC CHAIR** for sale, used 6 months only, as new. £300. Tel: Colchester (0206) 240495.

### Situation wanted

**MOTHER OF HANDICAPPED SON,** 37, living in north of England, seeks job in south of England in order that her son may attend a suitable school — Meltham or Ingfield Manor or Trengwath. Willing to take any job from clerical (no shorthand) to house or farmwork. First preference for residential social work — completed 1/2 degree course in social studies. Past experience: P.A. to senior parliamentary candidate, qualified youth worker, run own business. Holder of Gold D of E Award, past Vice-Chairman of local Society support group. Driving licence. Also seeks rented accommodation in south of England, even on temporary basis, to enable her to move south to seek work. Must sleep three. Contact: Fisher, 227 High Street, Duns-ville, Doncaster DN7 4BU. Tel: (0302) 885063.

### WHEELCHAIRS ASHLEY MOBILITY

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**FREEPOST, Birmingham B25 8BR. Tel. 021-772 5364 or Ashley Mobility (Worcester), FREEPOST, Worcester. WR4 9BR. Tel. 28575 or Ashley Mobility, FREEPOST, Weston super Mare, Avon. BS23 3BR. Tel. 26011.**

### GIVE YOUR CHILDREN

**PLEASURE** — their own drawings or photographs made into badges they can wear. They'll love it. Or, how about a badge with your child's name and address? **MAKE MONEY** for your school, group, club: use badges for fund-raising and publicity. Your own design made into a badge, from 20p + pp. Send sae for details of personalised badges, plus free sample, from Cadenza, Fron-y-gog, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8HZ.



## OUTLOOK

### Books

**Buying or Adapting a House or Flat: A consumer guide for disabled people**

by Sarah Langton-Lockton and Rosalind Purcell

(Centre on Environment for the Handicapped, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF. 50p)

This is a short, no-nonsense, starting guide for disabled people who would like to live in their own homes. It states that "it is **not** about housing for rent, and **not** a design guide. Nor is it a step-by-step guide to house purchase". Nevertheless it sets out very clearly the questions which any disabled person should ask themselves when contemplating adapting their existing home, or moving to a new one. In thirteen pages it manages to direct the attention to a series of important issues, and give addresses of useful organisations dealing with each one. It also gives encouraging case histories of disabled people who have surmounted the various hurdles.

Valerie Lang

**Integrating Disabled Children in Play**

by A. J. Leicester

(Sheffield Children's Integrated Play Association, 124 Devonshire Street, Sheffield S3 7SF £1.35)

Sheffield Children's Integrated Play Association (SKIP) has produced a guide for all who would dearly love to organise a play-scheme or a junior youth club involving physically disabled children, but who feel they lack the information or indeed the courage to proceed.

This straight forward booklet clearly and logically explains each step towards running a project to integrate able-bodied, physically-disabled and a few mentally-handicapped children in communal play. Detailed advice is given on ways of contacting children, parents and helpers, where to obtain financial aid; and there are many ideas for suitable activities.

An important section of this guide catalogues the main types of physical disorder and disability likely to be encountered and gives a clear idea of possible problem areas. The appendices contain useful addresses and further recommended reading.

Perhaps the most important guidance is contained in examples of administrative forms which have been found essential to the smooth running of Sheffield's scheme.

Clear line drawings and text show how to deal with the intricacies of wheelchair control and the problems encountered in lifting a heavy or severely disabled person. Here is a remarkably practical guide, detailed almost to the point of being over-directive, which offers valuable stimulus to strengthen confidence and give direction. It should help many dreams to become reality.

SKIP is a registered charity and, in addition to the guide, offers further advice and possibly even some financial help to those who would venture to extend further the link of friendship and acceptance between people.

Angela Kingsbury

### Theatre

**Graeae score a hit**

Graeae is Britain's only full-time professional company of actors with disabilities. It is now touring schools and arts centres with a new production called "The Endless Variety Act". Aimed at children (and people who feel like children), the show uses songs, jokes, puppets, music, costumes and fun to explore the theme of "differences" and the uniqueness of the individual.

The show scored a hit last month at an EEC conference at Castle Priory. Delegates had come to discuss employment and leisure opportunities for disabled people, and Graeae's performance on the final day neatly tied in the various aspects of the conference and gave everyone a good laugh too.

As well as a hectic schedule of performances, the company holds workshops. The one held at Thomas Delarue School recently was declared a great success by everyone who took part. About 25 people, the majority of them disabled, spent a whole week experimenting with different aspects of stagecraft including drama, humour, movement and mime, voice and music, design and stage management. They were under the guidance of professional tutors.

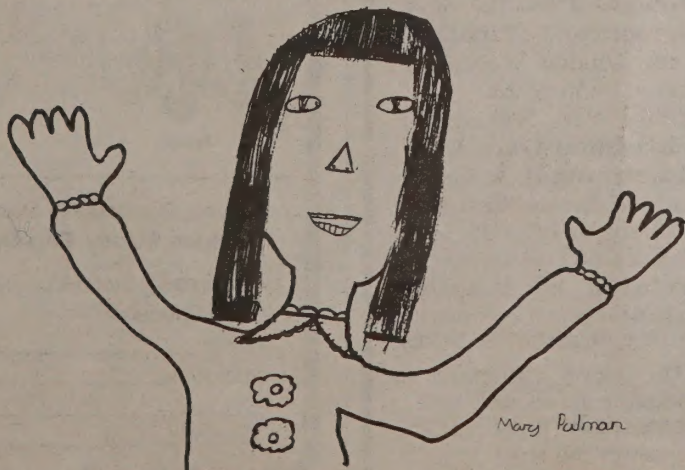
Graeae will be featured on television in the autumn. But if you would like to know more about them now, contact Tish Francis, Graeae, The West End Centre, Queen's Road, Aldershot, Hants. If you would like to become a Friend of Graeae, write for a leaflet to Wendy Andrews, 217 Evering Road, London E5 8AL.

Wendy Andrews

### Young Outlook COMPETITION Paint the Editor!

What better than a competition to launch Young Outlook, the feature specially for younger readers? So get out your paintbrushes and try painting the new Editor. Few people outside Park Crescent know what she looks like, which means you can use your imagination!

Paint your picture — you can submit any number — on A3 size paper (approx. 16½" x 12") and put your name, age and address clearly on the back. Send them to Painting Competition, *Spastics News*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Closing date is 7 September.



One idea of the Editor, but maybe she looks quite different!

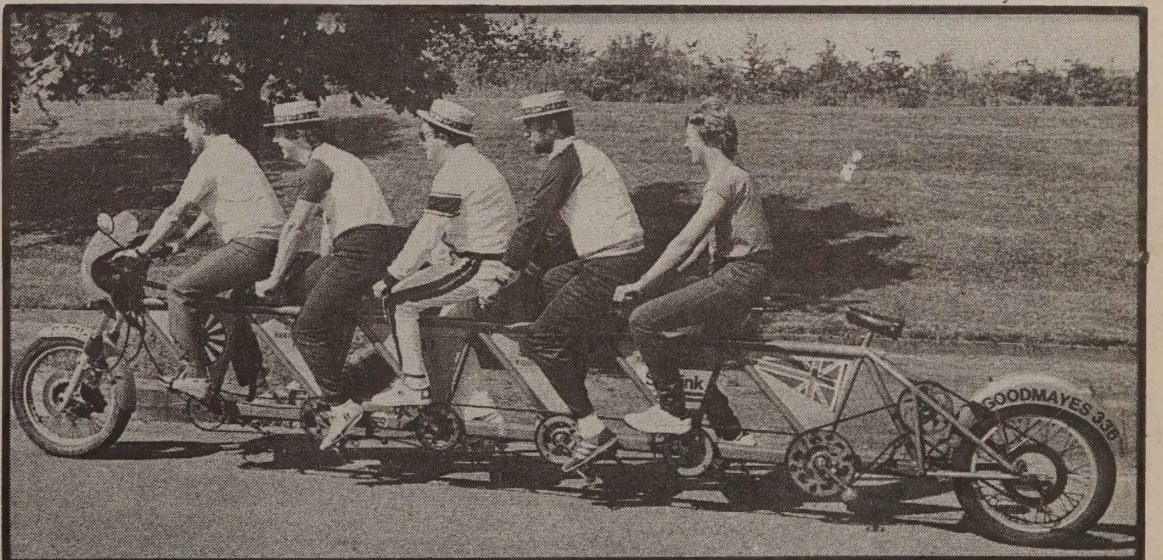


All set to start the cycling marathon, 30 miles from Maidenhead to Basingstoke

### Stars Organisation for Spastics

## Tall in the Saddle

Winners of the boneshakers award came from Crest's head office at Banbury.



Tim Yeo, Nigel Tuckett (The Society's graphic designer) and Mary Wilkinson will select the best picture in two age groups, 10 and under, and 11-16. Windsor & Newton and Reeves are generously donating a prize in each section. The two winners and two runners-up will have their pictures published in October *Spastics News*. Good luck!



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## Blue Peter Baby



Jenny Cooper, the healthy five-month-old, owes her life to new equipment at the Special Care Baby Unit at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham. Born two months premature, she developed severe breathing problems, but with the help of monitoring and ventilating machines and an air humidifier, she survived. The equipment was bought with £8,000 raised by the Blue Peter Appeal as part of The Society's "Save a Baby" campaign. Janet Ellis, the new Blue Peter girl, was there to present the cheque on 14 June. Here she is holding the baby, while Dr. Jeff Bissenden, consultant paediatrician at the hospital (left) and Gordon Davies of Midlands Region hold the cheque. Our thanks to Blue Peter, and all its viewers!

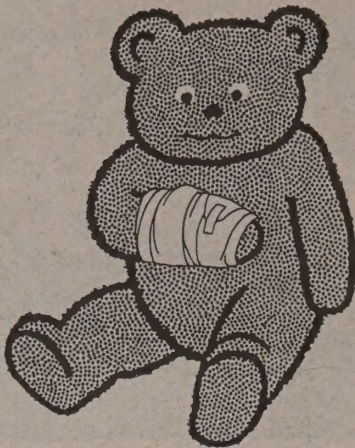


## Hatrick for the boys

If you are looking for a rather more laid back attitude to life, you couldn't do much better than invest in an Inva-Retro, a new invention to make life easier for disabled people. The inventors are John Freeman and Ingram Legge, both pupils of Shrewsbury School, and their former teacher, Ted Barber. The boys designed their wheelchair recliner for the BP Challenge to Youth Getaround competition in 1981, which they won. They then went on to sweep the board, winning both the Young Engineer of Britain Contest, and the Schools Design Award from The Design Council. While John and Ingram complete their education, Ted Barber has given up teaching, to become Managing Director of Hatrick Industries, which is producing the recliner commercially. A wheel-

chair is first reversed into the recliner, then locked into place and safely tilted back by the occupant to make hair-washing or visits to the dentist less of a chore, or simply to help take things easy. At present the Inva-Retro sells for £750, but it is hoped eventually to bring the price down nearer to £450. Although its uses are fairly limited, the recliner would be a definite boon to any dental surgery, or doctor's practice, where it will make examinations far easier. Ingram Legge explained that the idea was inspired by a visit from a local dentist who pointed out the difficulty in continually transferring disabled people from wheelchairs to reclining dentists' chairs even for a routine check-up. Doubtless he will be among their first customers.

## Big Taddy



Tadworth Court, the children's hospital in Surrey which won a reprieve against closure in March, has found a new champion. He is Taddy Bear, and he has a bandaged arm like so many children with cystic fibrosis who are treated at Tadworth.

He is the symbol of the new Tadworth Appeal which aims to raise £750,000 of capital to ensure an annual income of £70,000 a year for the next three years. £890,000 per year will also come from the DHSS.

So far the public have contributed £100,000.

A boost to fundraising has come from the Genesis Foundation of America. It has promised to match all donations and pledges pound for pound, up to a ceiling of £120,000, if they are received before 31 July 1983.

Please send your donations to Tadworth Court Children's Hospital Appeal Fund, C/o National Westminster Bank, Station Approach, Tadworth, Surrey.

## Growing interest

Horticultural Therapy have published a new leaflet outlining the work of their Projects Units, and the way in which hospitals, statutory authorities and social services departments can improve the quality of life for disabled people. *HT Services for Projects*, details the kinds of help, advice, manpower and design services with which Horticultural Therapy can help new projects. Over the past five years their methods have been tried and tested in projects at hospitals and long stay mental handicap and psychiatric hospitals. For copies of the leaflet contact: Ed Macalister-Smith, Deputy Director/Projects, Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW. Tel: 0373 64782.

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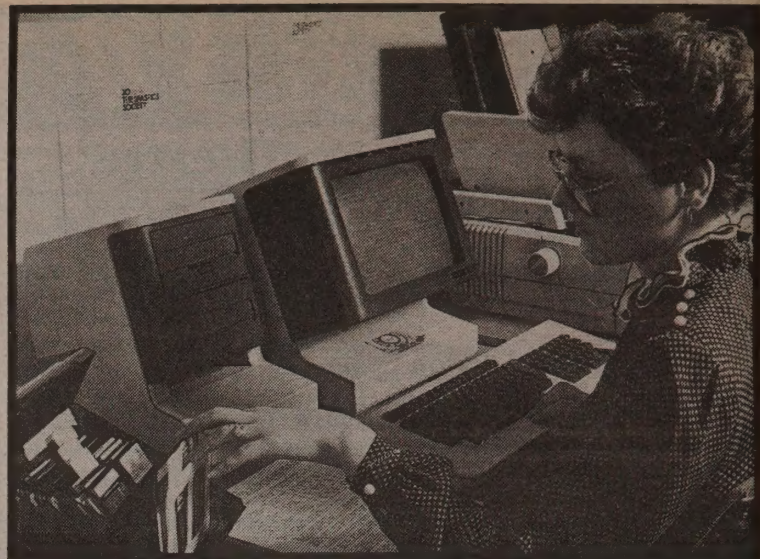
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## Take a letter!

The Spastics Society has just acquired its second word processor, an STC Scribe, to speed up preparation of its mountain of paperwork, letters, reports, committee papers and minutes. Executive Secretary, Mary Stanton, has found that it saves a lot of time. "Corrections and retyping take minutes rather than hours", she explained. Last year, 450 AGM letters had to be typed individually. This year they can all be printed in about three hours, and for most of that time, Mary will be free to do other things!

## Teignmouth finds a friend

*Continued from Page 1*

Bill is due to meet Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, soon.

By contrast, the Royal Hotel was praised. "Guests were almost overcome by the lavishness of what they saw. They were stroking the fabric of the armchairs. Paul Bourge deserves credit for what he has achieved in this respect."

However Bill would like to see the washing at the windows removed, and the sun terrace on the forecourt more discreetly screened. He has also suggested that Paul Bourge should counsel the nursing staff about their role as ambassadors. "In accordance with how they do their job, so

their patients will be acceptable or unacceptable."

To Colin Down, Liaison Officer for MENCAP, Bill Hargreaves pointed out how important it was for Down and his staff to act like a fire brigade, ready to tackle an emergency. "I have the feeling he is going to be one of the most over-worked people in Britain."

Rodney Bennett, President of the Chamber of Commerce, is planning a public meeting for Bill Hargreaves on 19 July. "We are hoping that the DHSS and the Royal Hotel will listen to what Bill Hargreaves has to say and act on it," he said. "What a wonderful man he is."

**Stop Press:** Teignmouth's Mayor has invited Bill Hargreaves to accompany him to a planned meeting with Dr Rhodes Boyson.

## QUALITY WHEELCHAIRS

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